

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2565

E. O. 11652: GDS 12/31/79

PFOR, NATO, CPAS, LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN PASSPORT PROBLEM

REF: (A) STATE 96406; (B) USNATO 2391

SUMMARY: DURING POLADS DISCUSSION MAY 23, US AND ITALY AGREED WITH UK POLICY THAT ALLIES SHOULD NOT PLACE ARABIC LANGUAGE STAMP IN PASSPORTS OR SEPARATE SHEET, AND SHOULD HOLD THE LINE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1. GERMAN, BELGIAN AND FRENCH REPS REPORTED THEIR GOVERNMENTS ARE STILL SEARCHING FOR VIABLE COMPROMISE. GREEK REP SUGGESTED THAT COUNTERMEASURES MIGHT BE AGREED UPON IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SOME RELIEF FOR DIPLOMATS. END SUMMARY.

1. US, ITALIAN AND UK REP REPORTED THEIR GOVERNMENTS COMMON VIEW THAT:

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-- ARABIC LANGUAGE STAMP SHOULD NOT BE PLACED IN PASS-
PORTS OR ON SEPARATE SHEET;

-- IN VIEW OF SEEMING RETURN BY LIBYA TO EARLIER REGULATIONS,

SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO PASSPORTS HAS EASED SOMEWHAT.
ITALIAN REP SAID THAT SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO DEPENDENTS
HAS EASED SUBSTANTIALLY.

-- CONSEQUENTLY, BEST POLICY WOULD BE TO TRY AND HOLD
LINE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1 UNION WITH EGYPT.

2. A NUMBER OF OTHER POLADS DEMURRED IN PART AND SUGGESTED THAT
EFFORT SHOULD STILL BE MADE TO FIND A COMPROMISE. FRG REPORTED
ON RECENT STRONG DEMARCH ON PART OF FRG AMBASSADOR TO DEPUTY
TO ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER. HE COMPLAINED STRONGLY ABOUT EXCLUSION
OF GERMAN NO. 2 AND HIS FAMILY AND SAID THAT HE COULD NOT
NEGOTIATE ON THE PASSPORT QUESTION UNTIL GERMAN DIPLOMAT WAS
ADMITTED. HIS LIBYAN INTERLOCUTOR SAID THAT HE WAS SURPRISED
AT THIS POSITION BECAUSE HE THOUGHT THAT THE FRG AMBASSADOR WAS
READY TO COMPROMISE.

3. OVERALL, FRG REP SAID BONN FEELS THAT SITUATION HAS NOT
IMPROVED MUCH AND THAT LARG' S POLICY IS QUIXOTIC AND UNPREDICTABLE.
HE NOTED, FOR INSTANCE, THAT LIBYA NOW REQUIRES AIRLINE TICKETS
TO BE ARABIZED-- ALTHOUGH IT NOT CLEAR WHETHER BY INSERTS OR
BY PRINTING ON TICKETS. FRG ALSO DOUBTS THAT UNION WITH EGYPT
WILL CHANGE MATTERS MUCH BECAUSE QADHAFI WILL STILL WANT TO
CONTROL INTERNAL SECURITY. CONSEQUENTLY, FRG FEELS THAT
EFFORTS AT COMPROMISE REMAIN NECESSARY. IN THAT CONNECTION,
FRG MUCH PREFERS SEPARATE SHEET TO ARABIC LANGUAGE STAMP IN
PASSPORT.

4. FRENCH REP CONFIRMED THAT FRANCE IS CONTINUING TO LOOK
FOR ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE SOLUTION, BUT HAS NOT AS YET FOUND
ONE. HE CLAIMS THAT FRANCE, IN INTERIM, CONTINUES TO
SUPPORT A " GO SLOW" PROCEDURE ON VISAS AND HAS BEEN PERSISTENT
IN URGING LARG TO RECONSIDER ITS POLICY.

5. DESCRIPTION BY BELGIAN REP OF HIS GOVERNMENT' S MOST RECENT
PRACTICE DREW CRITICISM. HE REPORTED THAT BELGIUM SEVERAL WEEKS
AGO AUTHORIZED BELGIAN CONSULAR OFFICIALS TO AUTHENTICATE ARABIC
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LANGUAGE TRANSLATION OF PASSPORT DATA. TRANSLATION SERVICE
IS PERFORMED BY PRIVATE TRANSLATOR, AND BELGIAN CONSULAR ACT
IS IN NATURE OF NOTARIAL CONFIRMING THAT TRANSLATOR HAS SIGNED
AND IS COMPETENT. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, BELGIAN REP CON-
FIRMED THAT TRANSLATION ENDS UP WITH BELGIAN OFFICIAL SEAL AND
IS INSERTED AS SEPARATE SHEET IN PASSPORT. AT TIME OF NOTARIAL,
HE ADDED, BELGIAN CONSULAR OFFICIAL WARNS PASSPORT
HOLDER THAT THERE IS NO GUARANTEE IT WILL BE ACCEPTED BY LIBYAN
AUTHORITIES.

6. NUMBER OF POLADS POINTED OUT THAT BELGIAN PRACTICE COULD
BE TAKEN BY LIBYANS AS A CONCESSION. UK AND CANADIAN REPS
COMMENTED THAT BELGIAN PRACTICE SEEMS TO BE CONTRARY TO

WHAT ALLIES AGREED UPON EARLIER IN ISD 23, PARA 6 (TEXT USNATO 1402.) BELGIAN REP PROMISED TO COMMENT FURTHER AT NEXT MEETING.

7. RETURNING TO RECOMMENDED UK POLICY, GREEK REP SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WERE NOT AT ALL RECONCILED TO PASSIVITY IN FACE OF LIBYAN DISCRIMATORY TREATMENT OF DIPLOMATS. HE URGED THAT COUNTERMEASURES BE CONSIDERED. UK REP RESPONDED THAT UK IS EMPLOYING A LIMITED COUNTERMEASURE OF PROCRASTINATING IN THE ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO LIBYAN OFFICIALS. EACH VISA APPLICATION IS FORWARDED TO LONDON FOR APPROVAL.

8. NETHERLANDS REP RAISED ADDITIONAL QUESTION OF WHETHER ALLIES INTEND RESPONDING TO LIBYAN NOTE CIRCULATED IN EARLY MAY REGARDING THE ARABIZATION OF PASSPORTS. HE ASKED TO BE ADVISED BY NEXT MEETING OF INTENTIONS OTHER ALLIES.

9. THE FOLLOWING PARTICULARS WERE REPORTED ON THE RESPONSE OF NON- NATO COUNTRIES TO LIBYAN REQUIREMENTS.

-- ITALIAN REP SAID THAT SPANISH GOVERNMENT IS PLACING ARABIC LANGUAGE STAMP IN PASSPORTS. SERVICE, HOWEVER, IS PERFORMED ONLY BY CENTRAL POLICE AUTHORITIES IN MADRID. SPANISH DO NOT INTEND TO ASK LIBYANS FOR RECIPROCITY BECAUSE SPANISH CONSIDER PRACTICE ONLY TRANSITORY;

-- FRG REP SAID THAT MALTA., INDIA, PAKISTAN AND THREE ARAB STATES USED ARABIZED STAMP. UK REP ADDED THAT STAMP DID CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT ALWAYS DO TRICK; RECENTLY, INDIAN NATIONAL WAS REFUSED ENTRY BECAUSE ARABIC PARTICULARS WERE WRITTEN ON PAGE THAT CONTAINED ENGLISH.

10. CHAIRMAN SUMMARIZED DISCUSSION AS FOLLOWS:

-- PROPOSAL THAT ARABIZED STAMP BE USED HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY ALLIES;

-- ISD 23 REMAINS COMMON POLICY OF ALLIES;

-- ALLIES SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER SPECIFIC COUNTERMEASURES SHOULD BE APPLIED FOR RELIEF OF DIPLOMATS;

-- ALLIES SHOULD REPORT ON THEIR GOVERNMENT' S INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO LIBYAN NOTE, PER DUTCH REQUEST.

11. COMMENT: WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON LAST TWO POINTS IN CHAIRMAN' S SUMMARY FOR OUR USE AT NEXT POLADS MEETING MAY 29.

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